

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging receipt and consideration of each of the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 20, 2001, as indicated by her signature on the PTO Form-1449 that was attached thereto and by her initials next to the listings for each reference cited therein. Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 based upon Japanese Application No. 11-361521.

Initially, Applicants note that the Examiner indicated that Applicants had not filed a certified copy of Japanese Application No. 11-361521 as required by 35 U.S.C. §119(b). In this regard, Applicants note that a certified copy of Japanese Application No. 11-361521 was filed with the present application on December 18, 2000. Attached hereto, Applicants have attached a copy of the stamped filing receipt dated December 18, 2000, which acknowledges receipt of Applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of a copy of the certified copy of Japanese Application No. 11-361521. As a courtesy, Applicants are also again providing a copy of the certified copy of Japanese Application No. 11-361521 with the present Response.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Abstract of the Disclosure was objected-to under MPEP 608.01(b) as including that which may be implied. The Examiner also objected to the specification under 37 C.F.R. §1.125(a) for informalities, and required a substitute specification under 35 C.F.R. §1.52(a) and (b) as well as a statement indicating that the substitute specification contains no new matter. Claims 1-12 were

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rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1-12 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Upon entry of the present amendment, Applicants will have provided a replacement Abstract that is more clearly directed to the technical disclosure of the present application. The language of the replacement Abstract is clear and concise, and does not repeat information from the title. Further, that which may be implied is not included in the replacement Abstract. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract.

Applicants are also providing both clean and marked-up copies of a substitute specification in proper idiomatic English. Attached hereto, Applicants are also providing a Declaration that the attached Substitute Specification does not include prohibited new subject matter, to the best of the knowledge and belief of the signer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the specification.

Applicants have also cancelled claims 1-12 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Applicants have added new claims 13-21 for consideration by the Examiner. Claims 13-21 have been added to more clearly recite the features of the present invention. In this regard, Applicants submit that claims 13-20 are definite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as grammatical and idiomatic errors have been eliminated. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §101. In this regard, claim 13 is directed to a “network-based electronic commerce system comprising... an item database... a coordination database... a virtual coordinator... and a payment system”. In other words, claim 13 is not directed to a method, let alone a method consisting solely of the manipulation of an abstract idea. Applicants further submit that claims 14-20 further define and limit the system recited in claim 13. Additionally, the method recited in claim 21 involves network-based electronic commerce, and is not the mere manipulation of an abstract idea. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13-21 are directed to statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding objections and rejections. Applicants further request acknowledgement of Applicants’ claim for foreign priority, as well as receipt of the Japanese patent application upon which the claim for foreign priority is based.

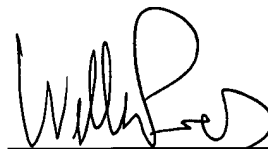
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have amended the specification, Abstract and claims to more clearly disclose and recite the features of the present invention. Applicants have further explained how the claims of the present application are directed to statutory subject-matter under 35 U.S.C. §101. Applicants have further provided clean and marked-up copies of a substitute specification that discloses the present invention in proper idiomatic English.

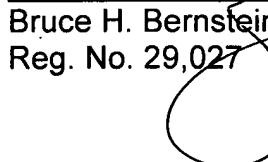
Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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March 1, 2005
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